

Nov. 12, 2010

This Week:

- Chetzemoka Inaugural Sailing
- Community Meetings Kick-Off
- Customer Compliment

Chetzemoka Inaugural Sailing

I am very excited that this Sunday we will be celebrating the inaugural sailing of the first new ferry of the 21st century, the Chetzemoka. Although the actual sailing is by invitation only due to space limitations, you are welcome to attend the events happening at both the Port Townsend and Coupeville (Keystone) terminals. Here is an overview of what is planned for the day:

- 10:15 a.m. - Chetzemoka arrives at the Coupeville Ferry Terminal
- 10:45 a.m. - Dignitary speeches and christening ceremony on car deck of Chetzemoka. Audio will be made available for those that remain terminal side.
- 11:20 a.m. - Chetzemoka departs Coupeville for Inaugural Sailing (by invitation/ticket only)
- 12:20 p.m. - Chetzemoka arrives in Port Townsend
- 12:30 p.m. - Tribal Ceremony on car deck of Chetzemoka (open to public)
- 1:00-2:30 p.m. - Vessel open house

The Chetzemoka will replace the Steilacoom II on Monday, Nov. 15 as the vessel serving on the Port Townsend/Coupeville route.

Community Meetings Kick-Off

On Wednesday I visited Anacortes for a joint WSF Community Meeting and Anacortes Rotary Club Meeting. The meeting was well-attended, and I enjoyed the exchange of ideas with customers in Anacortes. The topics for this round of community meetings are WSF efficiencies and reform, the 2011 legislative session, the new vessel program, WSFs action plan in response to the Passenger Vessel Association report (which will be released next week), and current operations. Next week we'll be at the Bremerton Ferry Terminal on Wednesday and the Kingston Community Center on Thursday. For details and a list of all community meetings, please visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/Ferries/commuterupdates/pub_meetings.htm.

Customer Compliment

I would like to thank the Bainbridge terminal staff for providing excellent service to a customer who was having car trouble during the Tuesday afternoon commute. The customer sent her compliments to the staff:

It seemed like everyone came to my rescue. A woman who was directing traffic on to the boat came out to tell me that they would take care of my battery and get me on the next boat...The man who was in the ticket booth came out and asked if he could help...An incredibly helpful woman helped me roll my car to the end of the dock, brought out a portable battery jumper, and cheerfully restarted my car. Then she told me to keep my car running until the next ferry came. She checked in on us and made sure we were okay...When the ferry got there...[they] ensured that we were the last passengers onboard -- to make sure we wouldn't inconvenience others if we had further trouble...When we got on, the men working the tunnel greeted us and let us know they would help if we had trouble upon arriving in Seattle. Fortunately, everything went well. The car started fine and we were off. Thank you so much to everyone who helped out. They made me and my two children feel comfortable and safe during an uncomfortable experience. I really appreciated it!

Next Week:

- Passenger Vessel Association Report Action Plan
- Transportation Commission Fare Proposal Public Hearing
- Bremerton and Kingston Community Meetings

David Moseley's weekly reports are available on the WSDOT Ferries Division Web site at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly.

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